Narrator: We are presenting a scene from *A Matter of Days* a dystopian novel by Amber Kizer. Sixteen year old Nadia and her little brother Robert must make their way from Washington state to West Virginia to find safety with their uncle after the devastating pandemic BluStar wiped out most of the human population. Along the way they encounter many situations and many people who can harm them. It is every person for themselves. Nadia is read by __________, Robert by __________, Miss Othello by ____________, and Miss Tre by ____________, and I am ____________, your narrator. Nadia and Robert find themselves in a predicament. Miss Tre, a seemingly harmless older woman and Miss Othello—her much more frightening partner—have trapped the siblings and are trying to get information and supplies.

**Miss Othello:** (intimidating) Don’t move. Where are you from?

**Nadia:** Uh, Seattle.

**Miss Othello:** What are you doing so far from there?

**Nadia:** Heading east.

**Miss Othello:** Why?

**Nadia:** We have family in Wyoming.

**Miss Othello:** Where?

**Nadia:** Outskirts of the park.

**Miss Othello:** What’s in your car?

**Nadia:** My brother, our dog, stuff from home.

**Miss Othello:** Guns? Gold? Medicine?

**Nadia:** (confused) What?

**Miss Othello:** Do you have any guns, gold, or medicine?

**Nadia:** No.

**Miss Othello:** Show me. And if your damn dog gets out of the Jeep I’ll shoot it.
Nadia: Robert, remember four in, four out. Twawki, stay. Here is our last can of food. And maybe there’s gold in there.

Miss Othello: (laughing) What am I supposed to do with this?

Nadia: It’s the only thing with gold on it we have.

Miss Othello: This isn’t real gold. You got your parents wedding rings?

Nadia: No.

Miss Othello: Do I believe you?

Robert: They’re still on their fingers—in the ground.

Miss Othello: Those gas cans—give us those.

Nadia: They’re empty.

Miss Othello: You kids better hook up with a caravan. You’ll never survive out here.

Nadia: There’s a group of a dozen cars behind us coming this way.

Miss Othello: Why aren’t you with them?

Nadia: They’re slow, lots of trailers. We got bored.

Miss Othello: Tell you what, for that bit of information we’ll let you go. But listen up, head south through Utah. Do not keep heading this direction into Montana. There’s a militia there that will marry you, kill your brother, and eat your dog.

Miss Tre: She ain’t kidding.

Nadia: Thanks.

Miss Othello: How far behind you?

Nadia: What?

Miss Othello: The others—how far behind?

Nadia: Probably a day or two now.

Narrator: Nadia manages to talk her way out of this one. Can she and her brother make it to West Virginia? Join them in this survival story to experience all the dangers and interesting people along the way by reading A Matter of Days by Amber Kizer.

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